



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Release

TO PMs, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1944.

In order to save manpower and equipment, the Puget Sound salmon canning industry today was placed under a concentration order by Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes and as a result fewer packing plants will operate this year than in any year since 1893.

Following the successful operation of the Alaska salmon packing industry under a concentration plan, which is being repeated this year, representatives of the industry in the Puget Sound area requested that a similar plan be placed in effect for their segment of the industry.

Only three plants will operate this year instead of the usual eleven although one stand-by plant will be available if the runs warrant its operation. A single plant, the largest in the area, will pack salmon for nine different firms. This plant, at Anacortes, Washington, has a capacity of 10,000 cases a day and storage facilities for 100,000 cases. The other operating plants will be at Deer Harbor and La Conner, Washington.

A saving of more than 525 cannery workers and tender operators will be effected by the consolidation plan, and 27 cannery tenders will be released for use in other activities. There will also be considerable savings in the use of diesel oil and the maintenance of salmon cannery equipment.

Last year's pack of salmon in the Puget Sound district was only 108,000 cases, the smallest in the history of the industry. Six out of the eleven plants operating packed less than 7,000 cases each. The pack of 1944 is not expected to exceed 100,000 cases, since the pink salmon, the major species in the Sound, occurs in important quantities only in alternate years and 1944 is an "off year" for this species.